



Butterfly and other Invertebrates Club Newsletter

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Aims of Organisation

- To establish a network of people growing butterfly host plants;
- To hold information meetings about invertebrates;
- To organise excursions around the theme of invertebrates, eg. butterflies, fireflies, ants, dragonflies, beetles, freshwater habitats, and others;
- To promote the conservation of invertebrate habitat;
- To promote the keeping of appropriate invertebrates as alternative pets;
- To promote research into invertebrates;
- To encourage the construction of invertebrate friendly habitat in urban areas.

Membership Fees

Membership is available to anyone who supports the aims of the club.

Individuals \$10.00

Families \$15.00

Subscriptions to the newsletter are available to Schools and Libraries for \$10.00

Make cheques payable to:

Butterfly and other Invertebrates Club

Newsletter Deadlines

If you want to submit an item for publication the following deadlines apply:

February issue - January 21st; May issue - April 21st;

August issue - July 21st; November issue - October 21st

Editorial

Welcome to the first issue of our newsletter as our club embarks on its second year. We plan to issue it on a three monthly basis to replace the monthly mailing of minutes. We hope to provide summaries of the contents of presentations by guest speakers, giving a longer term record of the information they provide to club members and guests. We hope that it will become a vehicle for the exchange of information between members, and a tool to increase the popularity of our small invertebrate worldly coinhabitants. We welcome comments and suggestions about the content, layout and areas covered and any articles or items you would like to submit.

Georgina John, Helen Schwencke , Daphne Bowden



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A Busy West End Backyard

Over the last few years we have planted over 80 species of butterfly host plants and some for other insects. This has been paying off since we have had lots of different butterflies in our yard during the last six months.

The Monkey rope vine (*Parsonsia straminea*) continues to attract many of these. We have had a Four Bar Swordtail (*Protographium leothernes*), Macleay's Swallowtail (*Graphium macleayanum*), Pale Green Triangle (*Graphium eurypylus*), Blue Triangle (*Graphium sarpedon*), Common Crow (*Euploea core*), Blue Tiger (*Danaus hamatus*), Cornelian (*Deudorix epijarbas*), Hairy Lineblue (*Erysichton lineata*), Australian Gull (*Cepora permale*), Common Albatross (*Appias paulina*) and assorted Skippers.

The Common Crow laid eggs on the Monkey Rope, the Blue Triangle laid eggs on the Cinnamon Bush, the Pale Green Triangle laid eggs on the Sour Sop, but no eggs were laid by the Fourbar Swordtail or the Macleays Swallowtail.

A club member generously gave us one of his Macleay's Swallowtail caterpillars whose eggs had been laid on a Camphor Laurel. Wanderers have managed to outsmart the Paper Wasps (*Rhopalidia gregaria*) and Tachinid Flies and have occasionally bred successfully. Big Greasy (*Cressida cressida*) butterflies have finally found the *Aristolochia tagala* and managed to eat nearly every plant in the yard. They also demolished some seedling Birdwing vines (*Aristolochia praevenosa*). I suspect the Cornelians are breeding on the Macadamia nut tree since we see them every year, but I haven't found any caterpillars. A Lemon Migrant (*Catopsilis pomona*) spent a few winter months trying to disguise itself as a Five Corner Fruit. The Speckled Lineblues (*Catopyrops florinda*) continually fly around the native Mulberry and the Zebra Blues (*Syntarucus plinius*) fly around the native Plumbago.



Orchard Swallowtails (*Papilio aegeus*) and Tailed Orchard Swallowtails (*Papilio fuscus*) bred on the citrus, a No-Brand Grass Yellow (*Eurema brigitta*) laid a few eggs on the Dwarf Cassia. A few Common Eggfly (*Hypolimnys bolina*) came to sip nectar from the Swamp Box tree. A Tailed Emperor (*Polyura pyrrhus*) spent a few weeks defending the neighbours Jacaranda from other butterflies. A Symmommus Skipper (*Trapezites symmommus*) appeared to lay an egg close to the Lomandra. A few Evening Browns (*Melanitis leda*) skulked in the shadows. A Caper White (*Anaphaeis java*) laid eggs on the Caper plant but they were eaten within a few days, probably by a lacewing larva.

A Glasswing (*Acraea andromacha*) has been floating ominously through the yard for weeks. I was hoping the last Native Passionflower would produce some seed this year before being devoured. We raised some Chequered Swallowtails (*Papilio demoleus*) from caterpillars supplied by a club member. They were so beautiful I planted some more of their food plant Emu Foot, to try to attract them to lay next year.

Some of the Rhinoceros beetle larvae breeding in old potting mix have pupated and emerged. They make a hissing noise when you try to pick them up. Pretty red Dragonflies keep an eye on the frog ponds. The small brown ants with the big heads (*Pheidole megacephala*) have totally disappeared from our yard. One day they brought many queens upstairs and abandoned them in a quiet corner of our bathroom. Suicide and Regicide - quite strange. Unfortunately they have been replaced by a medium sized black ant, instead of some of the more interesting native ants. The psychedelic Harlequin bugs (*Tectocoris diophthalmus*) are finally established on the Cotton bush and an unusual green and black insect lives on the White Sapote tree.

Oh well, if you can't get to the bush, bring the bush to you.

Frank Jordan

Excursion Report

Our end of year light trapping excursion to the creek at Wecker Rd Mansfield yielded some surprising creatures, an Emperor Gum Moth, Mantid Neuropteras, Christmas beetles. It was lots of fun.

Creature Notes # 1

Meadow Argus (*Junonia villida*) Host by Frank Jordan

I have been growing Karamat (*Hygrophila angustifolia*) for some years now in the hope of attracting a stray Brown Soldier butterfly (*Junonia hedonia*) to breed in our yard. This butterfly once ranged as far south as Southport, but its breeding spot there has been lost to development. No Brown Soldiers yet - but each year we do get a few Tiny Grass Blues (*Zizula hylax*) flying around the Karamat. Hopefully they are breeding, but they are so small it has been difficult to find any caterpillars, let alone eggs.

However, late last summer I noticed a Meadow Argus (*Junonia villida*) hanging around the Karamat. Usually they fly around the neighbours yard which is much sunnier, and they normally breed on the Centaury, however, this one laid eggs on the Karamat. It took a while but I did manage to locate those eggs and they were brought inside. When they hatched the caterpillars were transferred to a potted Karamat. One of the caterpillars didn't make it but the other two pupated and two healthy adult Meadow Argus butterflies resulted.

Though the authoritative book on butterflies by Common and Waterhouse "Butterflies of Australia" lists *Hygrophila angustifolia* under the name *Hygrophila salicifolia* as a host for the Blue Argus (*Junonia orithya*), they don't list it for the Meadow Argus (or the Tiny Grass Blue). So this rather unassuming plant can support a total of four butterflies. It can grow partly submerged in a frog pond or in the ground in a normal garden bed. It does need regular watering and dies back to ground level in winter. It grows easily from seed, and cuttings will grow roots if kept in a glass of water for a few weeks. Mealy bug infestations on the roots will sometimes kill otherwise healthy plants, so grow several.

Exoskeleton Experts and Imperts

In future issues we hope to bring you the names and phone numbers of some of our members and sympathizers who are prepared to answer questions about invertebrates. If you have expertise please consider volunteering

Library Books for Loan

The following books are currently available for loan at Meetings:

Australia's Butterflies by Peter Wilson

Butterfly Magic by Helen Schwencke & Frank Jordan

Australian Cicadas by Max Moulds

Books for Sale

This is intended as the place where the club or club members can advertise bulk purchases you have made or second hand invertebrate books you want to sell.

Australian Cicadas by Max Moulds (1 copy) @ \$20.00 contact Rob MacSloy on 07 3824 4348 (H)

Plants for Sale

If you are propagating plants or have done a bulk order of invertebrate host plants this is where you can advertise.

Ads and Exchanges

Sometimes you may have an oversupply of legally obtained caterpillars of non-restricted species and your food supply will not hold out. This may happen as a newsletter is being produced. What better place to advertise?



Butterfly and Other Invertebrates Club Programme

When: Saturday 3rd February, meet Fernvale Hotel 10am
Theme: Dragonfly and Damselfly excursion where we will see the giant superb damselfly and a grab-bag of dragons & damsels unlikely to be seen in your backyard
Where: Northbrook Parkway visiting a range of habitats including subtropical rainforests, having lunch at "The Oaks" BBQ facilities, then visiting Wivenhoe Dam for further spotting
Who: Led by Ric Natrass.
Bring: A packed lunch, or things to BBQ
Contact: 07 844 6677



When: Thursday, 22nd February, 1996 7.30 pm
Theme: Cicadas
Where: Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, Rode Rd., McDowall
Who / Guest speaker: To be notified.

When: Saturday / Sunday, 16 / 17th March, day trip or stay over-night. Meet at the Leyburn Hotel 12:30 pm Saturday
Theme: Endangered butterfly Ogyris genoveva
Where: Leyburn District
Details: Overnight camp available at sports ground contact Helen 3844 6677

Butterfly and other Invertebrates Club,
c/- PO Box 5170,
West End, Q 4101

Next Meeting:

**Dragonfly & Damselfly Excursion, Northbrook Parkway,
Saturday 3rd February, meet 10am at the Fernvale Hotel**